

The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

VOL. 29. — No. 343.

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THE BIRTH OF OUR DOMINION UNION.

"Great oaks from little acorns spring."

It certainly seemed a small matter when Mrs Mary Clement Leavitt set out on her world tour as W.C.T.U. missionary. Her departure was heralded by no trumpet blast. It was early days with the work in U.S.A., but the women there in whose breast lingered the Pentecostal fires of the Great Crusade movement, felt even then the greatness of the work just begun. Mary Leavitt visioned a world-wide crusade against drink and impurity, and greatly daring, she started out. No rich organisation stood behind her; she paid her way as she went on.

"The healing of the world
Is in its nameless saints. Each separate star
Seems nothing, but a myriad scattered stars
Break up the night, and make it beautiful."

Early in 1885, Mrs Leavitt reached New Zealand. In the report of the first Convention of the W.C.T.U., held in the Congregational Church, Woodward Street, Wellington, the following dates are given for Unions organised: Mrs Leavitt organised Auckland on February 4th, 1885; Dunedin, May 5th; Invercargill and Port Chalmers, also in May, date not given; Christchurch, May 15th; Rangiora, May 28th; Napier, June 11th; and Oamaru, June 16th.

Mrs Dudley Ward was the first Dominion President, and during the latter part of 1885 she organised the follow-

ing branches:—Wellington, September 3; Nelson, September 16; Wanganui, October 5; New Plymouth, October 27; October 29; Hawera, October 31; Ashburton, January, 1886.

At this first Convention the membership was 528.

The second Convention met in Blue Ribbon Gospel Temperance Hall, in Christchurch, on February 23rd, 1887. The membership had increased to 551. As evidence of our world-wide organisa-



MRS DEWAR,
Auckland's First Treasurer.

tion, letters were read from Miss Willard, from Mrs Leavitt, then in Japan, also one from the Brisbane W.C.T.U. At this second Convention the title of the Union was altered from N.Z. General Union to N.Z. National Union. This was done by a majority of only one, the voting being 9 to 8.

As early as this in our history a resolution was forwarded to the Minister

for Education asking that scientific temperance instruction should be made compulsory in our schools.

The Auckland Union was organised in February. Mrs Leavitt was the guest of Mrs Dewar. The Union started with a membership of 70 in the old City Theatre, since demolished. The first officers were: Pres., Mrs John Brame; Sec., Mrs Edwin Holloway; Treas., Mrs Alexander Dewar. The two former have since passed to their reward, after some years of faithful work to the Union. Mrs Dewar, now in her 90th year, still takes an intelligent interest in our work, though unable to attend meetings regularly. She held the office of President for some years before her retirement. Mrs Daldy, who so generously remembered the Auckland Union in her will, was the accepted authority for the Legal and Parliamentary work. She and Mrs Davies were the leading spirits in organising the Franchise work in Auckland.

The newly-organised Union presented Mrs Leavitt with £20 to help her on her way to the next stage of her journey.

Dunedin was organised in May. Mrs Booth was holding meetings there. At Mrs Leavitt's first meeting three women joined, Mrs McKenzie, Hon. Secretary of the Ramabai Mission, being the second. Another meeting was held in the Garrison Hall, when Mrs Miller joined. She and Mrs McKenzie helped in Booth's mission. Mrs Don, Dominion President, stood by Mrs McKenzie, and while she witnessed the signatures on the pledge cards, Mrs Don pinned



MRS. E. B. MILLER,

Dunedin's first and sixth Members.

MRS. MACKENZIE,

on the piece of blue and white ribbon. Mrs Miller was first Superintendent of Young People's Work. This work in Dunedin started with an incident while the blue ribbon was being pinned on at the meeting. A small boy asked Mrs McKenzie for a bit of blue ribbon to wear. Mrs McKenzie asked him to come to her home the next day, and bring his brothers and sisters, and if his mother gave her permission he could sign the pledge and wear the blue. He turned up, and said his mother would be only too glad if they all signed the pledge and kept it. He was the son of the publican at the corner of the next street.

From this small beginning the work grew until 400 children were linked up. Then an old hotel in Pelichet Bay was bought, and called Leavitt House.



LEAVITT HOUSE, DUNEDIN.

Meetings and various classes were held there. Mrs Don writes: "I was in Dunedin when the Union purchased Leavitt House, and attended the first cooking classes there, organised by Mrs Miller, and I used to give talks at the 'penny readings,' which took the place of the Band of Hope, and also gave evangelistic addresses on the Sunday nights in the same building. I was in Dunedin when the Union raised money and built a cabmen's shelter, where hot pies, coffee, and tea could be procured by the cabmen till after midnight."

Miss Nicol, who was Franchise Superintendent for Dunedin in the early days, is still at it as "White Ribbon" Agent to-day. Miss Fulton, daughter of Dunedin's first President, has written as follows concerning the founding of Dunedin Union:—"There were good gatherings from the first, when Mrs Leavitt, with quiet, forceful speech and manner, first addressed us. With her wavy grey hair, and sweet personality was combined a strength of character and rare knowledge of public work. Many of her hearers were already pledged abstainers through the efforts of Mrs John Jago, and now rallied to the White Ribbon standard raised by Mrs Leavitt. The Sailors' Rest was inaugurated at this time, with a committee of men and women to carry on meetings for seamen visiting Dunedin

MRS JAS. FULTON,
Dunedin's First President.

and Port Chalmers. Dunedin's first officers were: Pres., Mrs Jas. Fulton, Taieri; Sec., Mrs Thos. Dick; Treas., Mrs C. Begg. Among the names of those who rallied to their help may be given Mrs A. C. Broad, Mrs Williams, Misses Brownleigh, Mrs Boot, Miss Glasgow, Misses Cummings, and others, who could hardly have foreseen the dimensions to which the work would grow in Australasia."

From Dunedin Mrs Leavitt went to Christchurch, where she organised a strong Union, with Mrs Packe as President, Mrs A. C. Newton and Miss Aldred as Secretaries, and Mrs Wrough-

MRS. A. C. NEWTON,
Christchurch's first Secretary.

ton and Mrs Toneycliffe as Treasurers. Mrs Leavitt held a three weeks' mission, during which time she addressed a number of meetings, and got in touch with the clergy of the various denominations. Mrs A. C. Newton went on the public platform for the first time at the inaugural meeting of the W.C.T.U. Mrs L'acke had a great deal of enthusiasm and "go"—a very capable President. The office-bearers and many of the workers were exceptionally fine women of keen intellect, refinement and great courage. All worked well together, each esteeming other better than herself. They were appreciative of each other's gifts. The cause was put first. Personalities and trivialities were, for the most part, not permitted to interfere with its progress. Under the able leadership of Mrs K. W. Shepard the Union worked strenuously for women's franchise. She placed most importance upon the equality of women, but wanted the vote for all purposes. Men and women were to work together in all departments. It was largely due to the work of the W.C.T.U. that woman's franchise was gained in New Zealand. Mrs Newton was more interested in helping to gain women's franchise as a weapon to fight the liquor traffic with. Mrs May, a very charming woman, was particularly interested in the Social Hygiene Department. Mrs Beath, wife of the well-known draper in Christchurch, was a very keen worker in the Union. Miss Jane Roberts was a worker with wonderful originality. She was passionately fond of children, and in her profession as a public school teacher she saw so much suffering and poverty among the children owing to the drinking habits of their parents, that she counted no cost too great in fighting the liquor trade for their sakes.

The Christchurch Union worked Prison Gate Mission, Anti Gambling, Social Hygiene and Purity Departments very vigorously. A refreshment booth was provided by Union at Canterbury A. and P. Show, at which literature was distributed. Every bit of educational work done by the Union met with much opposition, and indignation at what was scoffingly called "advanced thought."

Mrs D. Renzie Newton represented New Zealand at the World's W.C.T.U. Convention, held in Geneva in the early days, and her daughter, Lady Rutherford, represented Canada at that Conference. Lady Rutherford, a keen Pro-

hibitionist, at the first dinner party she gave in England to which many distinguished guests were invited, wrote her expected guests that no wine would be served at her dinner table. The guests all came, and greatly admired the courage of their young hostess. Several years later when Sir Ernest and Lady Rutherford were entertained by the King of Sweden wine was not served at the Royal table.

Invercargill had already established a Union, but their President, Mrs Brown, wanted it brought under the Constitution of the N.Z. Union, which Mrs Leavitt went down and accomplished.

Port Chalmers was organised also in 1885, with Mrs Johnson as President. She is still President, thus holding the Dominion record for length of service as President.



MRS COSTALL,
Wellington's second President.

Mrs Leavitt was unable to organise in Wellington. The Editor of the White Ribbon has a vivid memory of Mrs Leavitt's Wellington visit. Our Editor, then a girl in her early teens, accompanied her grandmother to Mrs Leavitt's meeting. Grannie was most anxious to hear the brave woman who had dared to come so many thousand miles to plant the White Ribbon in New Zealand. The meeting was in the old Arcade in Manners Street, and was very poorly attended, only the two or three front forms being occupied.

Later in the same year, Mrs Dudley Ward started the Wellington Branch,



MRS. G. BENNETT,
Wellington's third President.

the first officers being: President, Mrs Robt. Hunter; Secretary, Mrs J. Plimmer; Treasurer, Mrs Baker. The second year Mrs Costall was President, and her daughter, now Mrs Port, of Wellington Central, was Treasurer. Mrs Geo Bennett was the second President. Mrs Bennett belonged to a noted temperance family, was a sister of the late Mr John Harding, of Waipukurau. She landed in Wellington in 1848, and lived there for 43 years. Her grandson, Mr Robt.



MRS JOHNSTON WRIGHT,
Wellington.

Denton, is one of our most indefatigable temperance workers, while a nephew, Mr Alf. Harding, of Kaipara, is a member of the Executive Committee of the N.Z. Alliance. Mrs Johnson Wright, President of Wellington South, was one of the first members, and is still with us.

Mrs Johnson Wright, President of Wellington South, was one of the first members, and is still with us as our National Superintendent for Evangelistic Department.

Mary Leavitt passed to her reward some years ago, but the work she started here is still growing and spreading. May the mantle of these pioneers fall upon many daughters.

THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE OF YOUTH.

The League was founded at Copenhagen in August, 1912, at a Congress at which eleven nations were represented, including England, France, and the United States of America. The purpose was to found branches of the International League of Youth in every country.

A Congress was held this year (1922) in Hamburg, at which the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"The second Conference of the International League of Youth sees it to be an urgent task for the young who have known war through experience, and who therefore condemn it, to recall again and again to the minds of former comrades the horrors of the battlefield, the injustices under which they suffered, and to beg them therefore not to look with indifference on the intrigues of reactionaries and of those who work for war, but to strive unswervingly, wherever they may be, for the removal of hate and distrust, for the creation of a good understanding and friendly relations between the youth of all countries, and thus to influence the nations."

The feeling of the Congress rose highest during the speech of Paul Campargue, the French delegate. He told with great joy of the interchange of visits and speakers between Germany and France, and of the deep and lasting impression which such personal contact made.

1924 CONVENTION.

The Annual Convention will be held somewhat late this year, and this notice is therefore only a preliminary one. The Agenda, which is usually printed in the January issue of the "White Ribbon," is this year being postponed till February, as it was impossible to arrange for an Executive meeting to be held in time for necessary preparations to be decided on for insertion in the January number. The opening date will probably be Thursday, the 20th of March, the usual preliminary Executive meeting being the preceding day. To this Executive meeting are summoned not merely the Executive officers, but also all Superintendents of Departments who are able to attend Convention, and representatives of District Unions, preferably the President of each, but if she is unable to be present, then the Secretary, or failing her, the Treasurer. Unions elect delegates to represent them at Convention on the basis of one delegate for every 100, or fraction of 100, financial (fully paid up) members, the delegates to be members of the Union they represent, or of some other Union in the same District. Unions that are unable to elect a delegate, but desire to be represented by a proxy, are reminded that early application to me is necessary to ensure the appointment of a proxy, and that no proxy can be appointed unless directions are sent, in writing, and preferably in a sealed envelope, for voting on any proposal for altering the Constitution and for election of New Zealand officers. No delegate can represent more than one Union; and all delegates must present their credentials from the President or Secretary of the Union they represent at the earliest opportunity to the Recording Secretary. Names and status of delegates should be sent as soon as possible after appointment to the Recording Secretary for the preparation of the roll, and all who require hospitality should communicate at once with the Convention Hospitality Secretary, Mrs X. Jones, 247 Gill Street, New Plymouth.

Unions that desire to nominate for the positions of Dominion Superintendents of Departments are invited to send in at once the names of members they consider to be suitable for such.

The White Ribbon Hymnal (English edition) is used at all Dominion Con-

ventions, and delegates are recommended to bring their own copies.

With every best wish for an inspiring Convention and a year of loyal and successful work,

I am, yours in W.R. bonds,

KATE M. EVANS,

Recording Secretary.

C/o E. F. Evans, Beaumont, Otago.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT.

Ravensbourne, January 5.

Dear Sisters,—

A Happy New Year to you all! 1923 has gone, and we are well into 1924, facing a way we have not passed heretofore. It may be a new way of work, fraught with difficulties, and calling for daily sacrifice, or it may be a long way with its end far out of sight, a way that fills us with dismay simply because we have never walked there before; but if it is God's way for us, we can trust Him to fulfil His promise to guide and keep us, and never leave us alone, and though there may be new experiences for us to gain, new possessions to possess, new enemies to face, new problems to solve, we need not fear, but do our work with a cheerful courage, leaving the result with Him.

I hope every Union will send a delegate to the Convention in New Plymouth next March, at the same time praying with us that the annual gathering may be a time of revival that will begin in the District and spread through every Union, making the work of 1924 effective and enduring.

I wish for you all the best gifts that cometh from a Heavenly Father.—Affectionately yours,

RACHEL DON.

Box 16, Post Office, Dunedin.

NOTABLE DAYS. ATTENTION, PLEASE!

A paper upon the life of Frances Willard has been prepared and printed for Unions to read at their Willard Day meetings. Any Union unable to secure a speaker, just send along 9d to Mrs X. Jones, 247 Gill Street, New Plymouth, and you will receive a most interesting and instructive paper. We hope sufficient Unions will send to repay Mrs Jones for all the trouble she has gone to.

THE NEW CITIZENSHIP.

(By Blanche Read Johnston, Hon. Secretary W.W.C.T.U.)

EQUAL ENFRANCHISEMENT.

I have never emphasised "Women's Rights." I have always felt with Tennyson that "The Woman's cause is Man's," and the tremendous tasks confronting us to-day, in the reconstruction period, are not such as can be solved by men or by women alone; they are problems that call for the united and best effort of both.

I have seen that all that elevates womanhood has a corresponding effect upon manhood. They rise together; they fall together. Therefore all principles and laws which raise the status of womanhood places manhood on a higher plane of thought, purpose, or action. This, of course, is evidenced in the lands where man rules as an autocrat in his private and public capacity; where womanhood is happy and free, so must man be useful and strong.

I have never shared the view that equal enfranchisement would arouse antagonism between the sexes.

A woman speaker once said in a large mixed audience: "Take away women, and what would follow?" "We would," came a clear assurance in a masculine voice. He probably spoke the truth.

In the story of the creation we read in Genesis i. 26-27 that . . . God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness, and let **them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."

"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He **them!**" Equal in beauty, equal in authority! Fresh from the hand of the Creator. Herein is the fundamental cause of women's desire for equal enfranchisement. It is not a question of a vote or a ballot simply. It lies deeper. The tendrils of its roots strike further back in history and reason.

It seems as if only in more recent decades have women, in large numbers, awakened to realise their true birthright in Christ's redemptive work, through His birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension.

The curse came through the fall of man and woman—Genesis iii. 16. "Un-

to the woman He said: I will greatly multiply thy sorrow. . . . And thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee," was removed through the work of the Saviour, Gal. iii. 28. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female, for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

HER RE-ESTABLISHMENT.

As proof of woman's re-establishment in her first estate of equality with man, we beg to submit the following briefly set forth reasons:—

1. She was given the distinguished honour of becoming the mother of our Lord Jesus.

2. She became His trusted friend and associate. John xi. 5: "Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister."

3. Woman was entrusted with the first glorious message of the gospel of the resurrection. Matt. 28: "The angel bade the waiting women (verse 7) go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead." And in verse 10 the Saviour confirms the commission: "Be not afraid; go tell My brethren that they go into Galilee. There shall they see Me." Ambassadors of the Cross! And the resurrection.

4. Woman's ministry to humanity has been honoured by divine recognition and success, as typified in such examples as:

(a.) Priscilla, who was one who "improved and expanded the theology of the eloquent Apollis." Anna was a prophetess in the Temple Courts, and publicly welcomed the Holy Child to its precincts, and Paul mentioned a host of women associates in the work of the early Church in his last words to the Romans. Chap. xvi. 1-27 and other Scriptures.

(b.) Dorcas, founder of the mission of service of clothing the poor and needy, which is found in all Christian communities to-day.

(c.) Florence Nightingale, the lady with the lamp, who lighted the way to the honoured profession of nursing.

(d.) Elizabeth Fry, bearing her message of hope and cleanliness into the prisons of the unfortunate delinquents and criminals incarcerated there.

(e.) Josephine Butler, with her loving helpfulness for fallen and outcast women.

(f.) Lady Huntingdon, inspiring courage in those who were oppressed for their religious convictions.

(g.) Catherine Booth; peeress of preachers, flinging wide open doors to the platform and the pulpit for thousands of women.

(h.) Frances Willard, reformer and organiser of women into battalions of aggressive service for humanity, and a great multitude who stand in the firing line of earnest devotion to-day fighting for liberty, truth, sobriety, and purity.

THE NEW CONDITIONS.

Why, it may be asked, is woman only waking up in the 19th and 20th centuries to a realisation of the full heritage of her womanhood? The question may be answered at least partially by recalling the changed social, political, and economic conditions prevailing.

In the "good old days" woman was shielded by the chivalry of man in the higher circles of society. She became his slave oftentimes in the lower strata.

The home was not only the centre of family life and pleasure, but of industry also. The ladies in the castle halls and their hand maidens, the serfs in their cottages, carded the wool, spun and weaved and sewed. All the garments were made in the home. The food was grown in field and garden, and the fruit in the home orchard. All was prepared, preserved, cooked and cared for in the **home**, whether castle or cabin.

If necessity demanded, the woman finding other employment, she went into **some other** home, a domestic helper, a waiting maid, a needle woman, or a governess. The mother kept her children under her own supervision. Her influence formed the child's character. She cared for the child's education.

But a change came. Modern civilisation in pre-war days restricted woman's former opportunities within the limit of the domestic sphere. There has been a tendency to rob her of the more valuable of the productive labour which engaged her in her ancient domain. Our spinning wheels are broken. Steam-driven looms now undertake the work. Lace machines, knitting machines, and sewing machines, run by electricity, now manufacture the garments.

Vegetables and fruits are preserved in great factories. On the farm, machinery minimises woman's toil.

At an early age the little ones trip away to school, and in their youthful days rush out into life to engage in its pursuits. Woman's work in the sacred precincts of home has contracted fully three-fourths (says an authoritative writer). An economical revolution has been gradually effected. Modern machinery and science has wrought the change. Everything once made in the home is made in factory and shop. Her work has largely found its way out of the home circle; and woman has followed it!

Womanhood woke up in a new sense! She began to feel her own need and realise her own powers. She demanded and obtained better education. She knocked at the hitherto closed doors of mercantile, professional, and official life. She beat down walls of prejudice. She won her way into every line of enterprise. She found herself handicapped. She saw that greed for gold increased the evils of the liquor traffic and the oppressions of labour among her sister workers. She saw that her sisters were entrapped into ways of sin. She found laws unjust, inadequate. She was hampered because she had no civil or political power. She found that her power of moral suasion and personal influence, valuable and important as that force undoubtedly is, failed in working necessary reforms.

This is the primary cause of woman's demand for equal citizenship.

This is the reason, the real underlying reason of the so-called "unrest among women."

Many women who are surrounded by wealth and luxury, enjoying the adoration and indulgence of their husbands, fathers, or brothers—shielded from the world's blasts—may not have heard the soul cry of the world's need. They may be indifferent, careless, or even critical. They have need of nothing. They do not understand the conditions under which many of their sisters live. They know nothing of the woman's anguish and the burden she bears from the drink traffic and the social evils or the suffering imposed by unjust economic conditions. We cannot think any true woman would be heedless if she really knew. Those who have wiped the tears of the sufferers and cared for the neglected childhood—the victims of men's greed and selfishness—have had the need and value of a ballot thrust

upon them. They feel it a "divine opportunity" rightly used, would, in time, help to mitigate the undesirable conditions that have pressed heavily upon heart and brain, and so make the world a cleaner, safer place for the young.

Let all who feel disposed to criticise ways and methods look into the deep heart of this whole woman's question, and they will find in it a tidal wave of powerful forces which cannot be turned back until it sweeps into the calm waters of victory and free, full citizenship, and woman enters into her first God-given heritage of "Dominion" not **over** man, but **with** him, over all things that a Loving Father made for His children.

PRIZE ESSAY.

The Helensville W.C.T.U. offered prizes for best essays on "The Effects of Alcohol on the Body." The following, by Mollie Meinhold, won 1st prize in Standard VI.:

Alcohol is an excretion of the yeast germ, the lowest form of life; and it is a well-known fact that if 14 per cent. of alcohol is put into beer or wine it is toxic in its effect, and will kill the yeast germs. Therefore it follows that if the toxic excretion of yeast will kill yeast, the toxic excretion of any form of life will poison itself and every form of life of a higher order. Thus it is proved that alcohol is a poison to every form of animal and vegetable life. It has been definitely established that alcohol acts as a dangerous poison to the brain and other tissues of the human body, and that the effects of this poison are largely responsible for a great proportion of the insanity and feeble-mindedness of the world. Besides the brain and other tissues, alcohol affects the liver if taken habitually, and causes it to become hard and shrivelled (what is termed a "nutmeg" liver), resulting in its not being able to perform its task of making bile properly, consequently had indigestion. While under the influence of alcohol, all control of the nerves is lost, and a man may do and say things while suffering from alcoholic poisoning that he would never do if he were in his right mind.

Formerly alcohol was thought to be a stimulant, but that idea is now abandoned, and it is now classed among narcotic poisons or drugs; although it is sometimes used in the case of temporary weakness, it should never be used by working people, athletes, or soldiers about to march. The primitive idea of alcohol as a stimulant arose from the apparent quickening and strengthening of the mental and physical functions when alcohol is taken into the body, but this effect is produced by the fact that there are two systems of nerves in the body, the action diminishing nerves and impulse nerves. The alcohol affects the former first, because they are the weakest, and makes them move more quickly. However, this quickening of the inhibitory nerves incurs great loss of energy; therefore, whenever alcohol is taken into the body, the body is being steadily weakened. For us who have never seen the poverty, illness, and utter dejection of the slums, it is hard to realise what ravage alcohol in the form of liquor can perform. Most of the discomfort endured by the slum families is caused directly or indirectly by drink—little children crippled and starving, whole families living in one small room, girls and boys forced to steal that their fathers, and even their mothers sometimes, may get drink. Beer, beer, and plenty of it, is what they want! Alcohol was first manufactured that people might take it in small quantities and enjoy it, for it is harmless if taken moderately. (We think Mollie is mistaken here. Expert opinion condemns small quantities of alcohol.—Ed. "W.R.") It takes 14 per cent. to kill the yeast germs, but, like so many other things, it has created a yearning for itself among men, and changed from a blessing to a curse. To sum up, then, alcohol if taken intemperately becomes a poison which dulls the perception, impairs the memory, decreases accuracy, endurance, and working ability—a drug which, when taken habitually, must result in an early death.

A scientist has discovered that a cubic foot of air can contain sixty-eight billion microbes, yet some people complain of being lonely.

WOMEN'S
Christian Temperance Union
 OF NEW ZEALAND.

Organised 1885.

"For God and Home and Humanity."

PRESIDENT:

MRS DON, Ravensbourne, Dunedin.

VICE-PRESIDENT:

MRS T. E. TAYLOR, Cashmere,
 Christchurch.

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 Carterton.

UNIONS! PLEASE NOTE.

With this issue we are enclosing a supplement for the Young People. It is detached, and so subscribers have practically an adult paper and a children's paper for the one subscription.

DOMINION CONVENTION NOTICE.

Will all members of Convention who require hospitality send word as early as possible to

MRS X. JONES,
 247 Gill Street,
 New Plymouth.

1924 CONVENTION.

Will all Unions please note that Mrs X. Jones, 247 Gill Street, New Plymouth, has been appointed by the New Plymouth Union as Convention Secretary. All communications to the entertaining Union about next Dominion Convention should be addressed to her, and not to the Secretary of New Plymouth Union.

The White Ribbon.

For God and Home and Humanity.

WELLINGTON, JANUARY 18, 1924.

A NEW YEAR'S WISH.

Gipsy Smith tells of a testimony meeting, at which many were expressing thanks for being saved from drink, gambling, or worldly pleasure. Presently a sweet, refined lady got up and said, "Christ gave me a bigger salvation than any of you. He has saved me from an easy armchair." Truly it takes much to save us from the easy chair habit. Our New Year wish to all our readers, and to our White Ribboners, is that they may be saved from the easy chair. We have had a long campaign, and the end is not yet. We have had defeats and victories, but the final victory depends upon one and all getting out of the easy chair and into the firing line. Every worker needs a good supply of sticktoitiveness.

Ever insurgent let me be,

Make me more daring than devout;
 From sleek contentment keep me free,
 And fill me with a buoyant doubt.

Open my ears to music; let

Me thrill with spring's first flutes
 and drums,

But never let me dare forget

The bitter ballad of the slums.

Unions will be reassembling for the year's work. Keep in mind our three P's—World Peace, World Purity, and World Prohibition—and work steadily and unceasingly for their accomplishment. Our Editor thanks all who have sent good wishes and kindly appreciative words, and passes on to all a beautiful New Year's wish sent by one of our oldest members—

"A bright New Year and a sunny track

Along an upward way,

And a song of praise on looking back,

When the year has passed away,

And golden sheaves, not small, not few,

This is my New Year's wish for you."

Which is the readiest way to communicate with the finny denizens of the sea?—Drop them a line.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Mrs A. H. Hayes, who makes delicious cakes for the Christchurch Union, was successful at the A. and P. Show there. She gained five prizes for cakes and scones. We heartily congratulate her.

BREWER'S DEPOT.

The Collector of Customs last August approved of the site of a brewer's depot at Matamata, but on October 10th notified them that his approval would be withdrawn. The brewers sought redress in the Court. The Collector's lawyer pointed out that the Act was for the protection of the revenue, and not for the benefit of the brewer. His Honour reserved decision, but did not think that the Collector had the arbitrary power he claimed of revoking such authority.

BRITISH WOMEN M.P.'s.

We note with thankfulness that the three British women M.P.'s have been re-elected, and at least two more are to join them, one of the newly elected being a prominent member of the Women's Labour Movement. The three first women M.P.'s, Lady Astor, Mrs Wintringham, and Mrs Phillipson, have each won the seat previously held by her husband. These ladies are called Society, Piety, and Variety.

DRINK AND LAX MORALITY.

When speaking at the annual meeting of the associates and friends of the St. Mary's Homes, Rev. G. Gordon Bell said our present morals were hopelessly wrong in regard to the difference in the degree of blame attached to men and women. Though the presence of one of these unfortunate girls would not be tolerated in a private home, a welcome place at the family table would be given to the man responsible for that girl's downfall. Canon Haselden said that, in his opinion, a considerable amount of immorality was due to the effects of drinking.

THE QUEENSLAND POLL.

The figures available now from Queensland show that Continuance has a clear majority over the other two issues. So once more the cause of Reform is delayed. We can sympathise with our Queensland sisters in their hope deferred.

IN MEMORIAM.

MRS MARIA WEBB.

Another of our early members has been called to higher service. Mrs Webb was the wife of Canon Webb. They came to New Zealand from England in 1884. They went to Ormondville, and removed to Gisborne in May, 1892. While in Gisborne, Mrs Webb joined the W.C.T.U. She organised the Gisborne Union, and was its first President. She was N.Z. Superintendent of Purity Department, and at that time a regular attendant and a familiar figure at the Dominion Conventions. In an old diary of 1899 is a copy of a circular letter addressed to Purity Superintendents. In it she speaks of the paucity of reports sent to her. In 1901 she returned to Ormondville. During her residence in Gisborne a Union had been organised in Ormondville. Mrs Webb became its President, which office she held for several years. Then the Union closed down for several years, and when it was re-organised by Miss Powell, Mrs Webb was too great an invalid to attend its meetings, having met with an accident some eight years ago.

The excuse is often made by members that they are too busy to take office or assist in temperance work. But here was one who led the busiest of lives, and yet found time to help by her work and her influence the cause of God, Home and Humanity. Mrs Webb had nine children of her own, and in addition adopted several nephews. She was a great worker in the Sunday Schools and Mothers' Unions, was Superintendent of both Gisborne and Ormondville Sunday Schools.

Mrs Webb was in her 91st year. On December 6th she had a second stroke, from which she never rallied, and a little after midnight on December 8th she passed into the King's presence. A long, busy and beautiful life has closed here and gone to fuller service elsewhere. Our sympathy goes out to her family, one of whom, Miss Alice Webb, is President of the Ormondville W.C.T.U.

MRS JONES (FEILDING).

Mrs Jones, one of the pioneer members of the Feilding Union, has passed

home, after a long and lingering illness. She was one of the first officers of the Invercargill Union. For many years she acted as Evangelistic Superintendent of Feilding Union. To those she has left to mourn for her we tender our sincerest sympathy.

TWO NO-LICENSE FIGHTS AT BURGHEAD AND LOSSIEMOUTH, SCOTLAND, SEPT. 25, 1923.

Mrs Barton, the well-known Temperance lecturer, addressed two large and enthusiastic meetings at Burghead and Lossiemouth, N.B.

Mrs Barton spoke of how she had been out in the thick of the fight with the liquor traffic down in the trenches and up in the parapets. She said she had never yet met a person who could give a good reason why Britain should continue giving licenses to thousands of publicans to sell alcoholic liquor as a beverage. She said at her age she deserved to be allowed to rest in her bungalow at Prestwick, but she could not rest, seeing women and children condemned to misery. Why should the nation legalise a trade that never did any good to anyone?

Much depended on the women. Great men had led the American nation in its crusade against slavery, but behind these men was the inspiration of a woman, Harriet Beecher Stowe.

The future was with the Temperance party. Even with a hostile press, and the press, Mrs Barton declared, was never in favour of reforms till they became popular, they would win through. No-License would one day become popular. Then the people would rise in their strength and no longer allow thousands of brewers and publicans to fatten and batten on their misery.

Mrs Barton's address sparkled here and there with gems of humor. She said she met in a train a man connected with the trade. He said, "If you carry No-License we will all have to go to the poorhouse." "And when you go there," she replied, "those whom you have sent there will have a chance of getting out."

N.Z. W.C.T.U. Literature.

Departmental Literature can be obtained as follows:—

General: Mrs Mowlem, 52 Russell Terrace, Wellington South.

L.T.L., Cradle Roll, and Medical Temperance: Mrs Neal, 3 Maunsell Road, Parnell, Auckland.

Maori: Mrs Walker, "Gortgowan," Fox Street, Gisborne.

Purity: Mrs Kippenberger, Studholme.

MRS MOWLEM'S STOCK includes:

Badges, white enamel, 6d each, per dozen to Unions, 5/-; 1/- each, 10/- per dozen; W.R. Hymnals, 3d each, 2/- per dozen; W.R. Hymnals Music, 3/- each; Writing Pads, small 1/-, and large, 1/9; Envelopes, 6d pkt. of 25; Handy Booklet, 4d each, 3/6 per doz.; Constitution, 4d each; Membership Pledge Cards, 6d per dozen; Facts about W.C.T.U., 6d dozen; Treasurer's Slips, 1/- per 100; Membership Transfer Slips, 1/- per 100; Pledge Books, 6d.

These Prices include Postage.

L.T.L., CRADLE ROLL, AND MEDICAL TEMPERANCE.
**Mrs Neal has in stock:
FOR THE L.T.L.:**

Charts (with Manual of Lessons), showing effects of Alcohol and Tobacco on the human body, 7/6 per set; Questions Answered About the L.T.L., 1/6; Marching Songs for Young Crusaders, 1/- each; A Handful of Hints, 1/-; Temperance Tales, 1/-; About Ourselves, 1/-; About Our Country, 1/-; It is Written (Bible Stories), 1/-; Shakespeare Manual, 1/-; Recitation Books, 1/-; L.T.L. Pledge Cards, 1/- per dozen.

MRS KIPPENBERGER has on sale:—

Confidential Talks with Young Women, 1/9; Youth and Maidenhood, 3/6; Sex and Marriage, 3/6; The Story of Life, 1/6; Life on High Levels, 2/6; A Talk with Girls, 4/-; Letters and Talks to Girls, 3/6; Sex Lore, 9/-; Text Book, Sex Education for Teachers and Parents, 7/6; Knowledge a Young Man Should Have, 4/6; Knowledge a Young Woman Should Have, 4/6.

CRADLE ROLL:

Cradle Roll Pledge Cards, 1/- per dozen. Cradle Roll Birthday Cards, 2/- per doz. Eighth Year Certificates, 2/- per dozen.

MEDICAL TEMPERANCE: Leaflets at prices ranging from one penny up to sixpence per doz.

LETTER FROM MISS ANNA GORDON, PRESIDENT OF WORLD'S W.C.T.U.

Believing that just now the United States and Canada are the chief demonstration stations for Prohibition and its enforcement, I personally have felt our efforts in aggressive, intensive campaigns should largely be centred here, so far as my own contribution to world Prohibition is concerned. In the United States we have safely imbedded in our constitutional law the Prohibition of intoxicating liquors. The majority of our people obey and are in sympathy with the law. In the great majority of our forty-eight States its benefits on public health, economics, morality, child life and home happiness are steadily increasing. Even in the States where enforcement is lax—states which did not enact a prohibitory law for themselves—we find conditions better than under the license regime. In the older countries it is very difficult to gain and to hold Prohibition territory, but slowly and surely the educational sapping and mining process is going on, and in due time the nations desiring to conserve the best interests of their people will follow the example of that noble native woman ruler in India, the Begam of Bhopal, and will adopt the Prohibition policy.

We rejoice that in the United States women in all the large organisations having a social welfare programme, women of the churches, women of the patriotic, fraternal and civic groups, one and all are pushing law enforcement and arousing the good citizenship of the country to the peril of indifference to the present critical situation. Lawlessness, however, is not peculiar to the United States to-day, but because the reckless element in our country can include in its attacks and nullifications a constitutional law, the enforcement of which cuts across personal habit and personal greed of gain, good citizens have more to reckon with in a settlement of the issue of lawlessness versus law.

Two great international Conventions have announced their dates for May or June of 1925, to be held in the United States—the Triennial Convention of the World League Against Alcoholism, similar in scope to the Toronto Convention of 1922, and the Quinquennial Convention of the International Council of Women, of which Lady Aberdeen is

President. The general officers of the World's W.C.T.U. have agreed that our 1925 Triennial Convention shall meet in the United States in conjunction with dates to be taken by these other great groups.

The League and the Quinquennial Council desire to co-operate with us in the selection of dates so that they may be consecutive and overseas delegates may have the benefit of special rates for steamships and cross continent travel for those who land on our Pacific Coast, and enable all who wish to do so to attend the trio of vitally interesting Conventions. To this end we shall work, and we hope soon to announce city and dates for the Twelfth Convention of the World's W.C.T.U. The Council meeting will be held in Washington, D.C.; that of the World League will probably meet in New York City.

Knowing this basic fact that our next Convention is to be held in America near the Atlantic sea coast ports of entry, we hope all auxiliary countries will begin at once to organise Convention parties to visit America for these meetings. Miss Agnes Slack will soon be writing you particulars, and I know she will be glad to render assistance to those on the other side of the Atlantic. Even though the latest Convention of the World's W.C.T.U. was held in the United States, we feel it is essential you should come again to our Prohibition experimental station and see for yourselves the splendid strides our law has made in the four short years it has been a Federal provision. We want hundreds of delegates from every quarter of the globe to come to us and carry back to their own people their impartial observations and surveys. This would bring quicker and far more stable extension of Prohibition area and Prohibition principles than to have a few hundred of us Americans centre in one country overseas for a World Convention. To our thought, the coming to America of friends of our cause from fifty or more nations will mean fifty live wires in these fifty countries refuting the liquor propaganda, which now fills the newspapers of these lands.

Sherman said, "War is hell," but there is no war so bad as that in which a Government destroys its own citizens with the artillery of the licensed beverage liquor traffic.

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER.

Dear Comrades,—

The 17th of February, the anniversary of Miss Frances Willard's death, is called her "Heavenly Birthday," and when that day comes round every Women's Christian Temperance Union is supposed to hold a commemorative meeting. Again the story of her life is told, and an offering is taken, to be added to the fund used in her name, for the extension of the work so dear to her heart.

Printed copies of a paper on the life of Frances Willard can be obtained from me for 9d each, postage paid.

Wishing you all a Bright and Prosperous New Year.—Yours sincerely,

ALICE JONES,

Dominion Supt. Notable Days.

Address: Mrs X. Jones, 247 Gill Street, New Plymouth.

PROHIBITION IN U.S.A.

Mr W. A. Tate, of Greytown, who has just returned from a trip to U.S.A., gave a Greytown audience facts which he knew about Prohibition in America. He stated that the largest employer of labour in the world is a great advocate of Prohibition, that Prohibition means efficiency, and that money is spent in more profitable ways than in liquor. Mr Tate stated that an eminent American considered Prohibition the greatest thing that man had ever thought of, and as sure as the sun rises, whether we want it or not, we will have Prohibition, as the liquor traffic is financially and physically sapping the strength of our people. From one business establishment, where 125 men were employed, Mr Tate saw at 5 p.m. three men walk away, all the others drove away in their own cars. At another, where some hundreds were employed, every man drove away in his own car. On the whole of Mr Tate's tour in the United States he only saw two men the worse for liquor. One man who had lived in Kansas all his life, and never seen liquor in bars like we have, thought people were mad to think of keeping up the practice of drinking liquor. Mr Tate stated that the W.C.T.U. had done a great deal towards gaining Prohibition in America, and it will here, and he was very proud to be a member.

**34th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF
CAPE PROVINCE W.C.T.U., HELD
IN QUEENSTOWN, SEPT. 29th to
OCT. 4th, 1923.**

The President, Mrs Geard, of Port Elizabeth, was in the chair. After the singing of the National Anthem, a devotional service was conducted by Mrs McEwan, followed by the reading of the Preamble to the Constitution, the Pledge, and the Crusade Psalm.

Among the resolutions passed was one to place the sum of £500 on fixed deposit, to form the nucleus of a Local Option Campaign Fund. With a view to preparing the younger members for their future responsibilities, the advisability of holding summer or winter schools for Y's or Juniors was discussed and recommended. The report of the Cor. Sec. showed a total membership of 2751 in the Cape Province. After roll call, it was found that 5 general officers, 8 superintendents of departments, 30 "W" delegates, 13 "Y" delegates, and 4 visitors invited for special assistance, were present at the Convention. 244 scattered members are corresponded with, also 143 scattered juniors, each receiving birthday greetings and a Christmas letter and card.

Under the heading of Social and Moral Hygiene much work is done on preventive and social lines. Objectionable bioscope films, indecent posters, postcards, and other lowering influences have been combated, and teachers, as well as scholars, influenced to maintain a higher moral standard in the schools.

Child Welfare Societies and Rescue Homes have been assisted, also a hostel for factory girls.

The Presidential Address was much appreciated, telling of world-wide work in the fight for Prohibition, and exhorting to more strenuous efforts and a deeper consecration.

Dr. Anna Slater read a very impressive paper on "What I Know of Alcohol." One of the points emphasised was that alcohol is one of the thirstiest things, because it has the property of diluting itself at the expense of the bodily juices, thereby increasing thirst. The following substitute for alcohol was recommended when the craving comes on:—Steep ground quassia in lemon juice in the proportion of one part quassia to 100 parts lemon juice. A teaspoonful in a glass of water to be

taken and repeated till thirst is conquered.

The public meetings included a Y evening, a pageant representing many countries, showing the march of Temperance reform. A powerful and witty address, delivered by the Rev. Oosthuizen, who said there were three classes arrayed against Prohibition—1st, those who made money out of the sale of liquor; 2nd, those who were moderate drinkers; 3rd, those who were misled by such words as vested interests, etc.

CHILD WELFARE.

On November 9th an address on "Some Popular Fallacies in the Modern Upbringing of Children" was given at Levin under the auspices of the W.C.T.U., by Dr. Elizabeth Bryson.

Many points were ably presented. The right foods for children were explained, the best thing after all being to go back to the simple, plain foods, properly cooked and served, the various wheat and whole-meal foods now before the public being preferable to refined flours. Another fallacy was that of bow legs in a child being attributed to it being allowed to walk before it was strong. A child never walked before it was strong enough. Bow legs were largely due to rickets.

The fallacy of allowing a child to live and sleep in its pram, was pointed out and explained, and also the bad effects of taking a child into the atmosphere of picture theatres and similar places. The speaker ably pointed out the entire freedom needed by the child in its growth. If carefully trained, it would grow into the habits of obedience, cleanliness etc., because it had learned to love and respect those who care for it, and therefore loved to obey.

WELL DONE, INVERCARGILL Y's.

Our Business Manager congratulates the Invercargill Y's upon their year's "White Ribbon" work. They have a total of 72 subscribers. During the year they gained 26 new subscribers, and only lost four. We wonder how many Mother Unions have gained 26 new subscribers this year. Wake up, mothers; you have till the end of February to try for the silk tablecloth for greatest number of new subscribers.

GIVING THE FLAG A SQUARE DEAL.

(Extracts from an address by Dr. Mary Armor at U.S.A. National Convention.)

Some one has said that Christianity is both a proclamation and a protest. It has two distinct objectives, to dethrone the wrong, and to enthrone the right. We have dethroned the liquor traffic; it has gone, and gone forever. The next work that lies before us is to enthrone Prohibition.

"In the first place, if the Prohibition law is broken, or repealed, or degraded, or made fun of, the flag is not given a square deal. I have recently been 11,000 miles from my homeland, and I realised as never before how much the honour of my flag meant. When I saw posted up on the hoardings and printed in leaflets, pamphlets and the newspapers statements that the old flag of the United States of America, that had never bowed her head or been defeated, had met its match in the bootleggers, every drop of my blood was stirred in righteous indignation. If Americans who jest lightly at Prohibition could have seen what I saw and heard the things that were said about America, they would never again ridicule the law. You feel differently about the flag when you are away from home. New Zealand was confidently counting upon the United States to help it win a great victory, and it was beaten by those who were willing to take the 'glow' out of Old Glory, to make the New Zealanders believe that Old Glory had been defeated by the law violators. At the first meeting I attended in New Zealand, I heard some most remarkable things about America—that women were given suffrage before we got Prohibition, and that now women have seen their mistake and are trying to undo their work. The wets had hired the hall and the speaker, but the dries had pre-empted two-thirds of the seats in the hall, and they had a hilarious time. It was confusion worse confounded. As I sat in the gallery with Mrs Rachel Don, President of the New Zealand W.C.T.U., I said to her, 'If the dries treat the wet speakers like that, what will the wets do to me when I get up to speak?' and she gave me the comforting answer; 'Treat you worse.' Although I have been in State and nation-wide campaigns for years, I had never spoken to a disorderly audience, and I began to pray

over what I might have to meet. I was not afraid, except that I feared I could not think in such confusion. The wet speaker did not have to think!!! He had his speech typewritten. The Lord answered my prayer. I never did speak to a disorderly audience in New Zealand. They always asked questions at the end of the address, but they were not disorderly. One of the questions most frequently asked was, 'Is it true that you cannot enforce the Prohibition law?' This question was asked not by enemies, but by friends. I had just one reply to make. I knew these people were British to the last man, and, Yankee fashion, I answered their question with another question, 'Did you ever hear of that old flag of ours surrendering? She has never surrendered, and she isn't going to be hauled down because the bootleggers have laid their hands on the halyards.'

"Let me tell you a secret. We are enforcing that law a great deal more to the satisfaction of the drys than to the satisfaction of the wets. And when I was asked, 'Do you believe that the Prohibition amendment will stay in the Constitution?' I replied in the words of that immortal song of John G. Dailey's, 'By the royal act of Congress backed by States in strong array; by the Court's Supreme decision, signed and sealed in legal way; by Jehovah's ultimatum, which the people MUST obey. It is in the Constitution, and IT'S THERE, THERE TO STAY.' In America to-day for every one man who is disloyal, there are 100,000 whose motto is,—'Hats Off to the Flag.'

"The treatment of Prohibition by the law violators is not giving the flag a square deal, and it's not giving Democracy a square deal. When a man brags about 'my bootlegger,' when he purchases liquor illegally, he is not giving democracy a square deal. What is democracy? Democracy is majority rule, government of the people, by the people and for the people. We have shouted for democracy, we have prayed for democracy, we have worked for democracy, and multitudes of brave boys have given their last full measure of devotion on the battlefields in the name of democracy. I say that if this greatest democracy on earth cannot enforce its own reasonable and righteous laws, written into its Constitution by the greatest majority of any amendment ever written, then this Government is

a failure, democracy is a lie, and every boy who sleeps in Flanders field has died in vain.

"You have to visit a wet land in order to really appreciate a dry land. I have recently returned from the driest wet country in the world. New Zealand is said to have the nicest people selling liquor; they claim to have the best regulations; you cannot sell liquor after six o'clock in the evening, nor before nine o'clock in the morning, but I will give you my word of honour that from my observation the driest wet country on earth is infinitely wetter than the wettest dry spot on the globe. I came back from New Zealand thoroughly convinced that Prohibition at its worst is better than License at its best. One of the New Zealanders who had been to the United States, remarked fervently, 'If Prohibition in America is a failure, then, O Lord, give us that kind of a failure in New Zealand.' A New Zealander said to me, 'I love my glass, but I love my country better than my glass, and I heard so many contrary reports about Prohibition in America that I determined to go over and investigate. I went everywhere, to the big wet cities, San Francisco, New York, Chicago, Philadelphia; I went into the smokers, into the small and the large restaurants, the cheap and the big hotels; I went into the slums; I never put myself into the hands of the drys or of the wets, and after spending two months in America, I am convinced that Prohibition is ninety-five per cent. successful in the United States.' And that from a man who loves his glass. You are apt to compare Prohibition in your community with what you want it to be. You must stop that. You have forgotten the pit from which you were digged. You must compare the present situation with what it was before the liquor traffic was outlawed.

"Every now and then we hear of rocking-chair Christians who sit still and complain. They say, 'I thought when we got Prohibition, we could quit.' Well, I am not a quitter, and I have very little patience with the quitters. I want to tell you that this is a battle for the church militant. Did you ever hear of any great movement that did not have to be fought for? Remember that the open Bible, the free church, the sovereign state, the unfettered press, the right to think and to speak, all were won by battle and blood-

shed. Would to God I had the power to sound a blast that would call every soldier of Jesus Christ from the East and the West, from the North and the South to come out to fight in 1924, not only for America, but for all the world."

A LITTLE ABOUT BOOKS.

Picture, with me, a rural homestead, far from the thronging crowds and the busy turmoil of city life. Far even from the railways, that are the connecting link with busy centres.

The house is not large, but it is well built, and has an air of solid comfort and thrift about its well-kept garden, where bloom many of the choicest flowers in season. But it is night now, and our vision is obscured; we can only hear the rain coming down in torrents, the thunder rolling, and see the lightning flashing. The wind comes in mighty gusts, and hurls itself against the house as though inviting it to a game of pitch and toss; but the house merely gives a little shake, and seems to settle down firmer on its solid foundations, as though saying, "No it is for you to hurl, but for me to withstand."

Now let us peep inside. Round the hearthstone, where a fire is burning, such as can only be had near the virgin forest, sit father, mother, and the elder children; the wee ones have already been tucked in. To-night mother is too busy with some little garment to read. When she can read, they each have their own book, and enjoy each his own story, but this evening father reads aloud, while mother sews and listens to one of Curwood's beautiful nature stories, which young and old can alike appreciate. They have not yet been able to buy a piano, or even a phonograph, so cannot enjoy music, but they nevertheless have a most enjoyable evening, and before they retire, that Book of books is brought down and a chapter read, and the father does not forget to thank God for all His mercies, and among the chiefest of them for his happy home, and for the easy access to good books. They are out of the reach of picture theatres and such like amusements; they cannot afford music, except the rich melody of the birds, but they can afford books.

and they have and enjoy them to the utmost.

I wonder do we ever consider how fortunate we are in living now and not in an age when books were unknown. What a friend a book can be, only the book-lover knows. Those who are not fond of reading do not know how much they miss.

A person who is homesick and alone, far from home and kindred, if he is fond of reading can lose himself in a book, and live for a time in the characters of his book; and there are books to suit the tastes of all. The physician, botanist, naturalist, agriculturist, scientist, phrenologist, sociologist, theologian, astronomer, etc., all find that some gifted person has left the humble creation of his brains to be handed down to posterity.

Those who like a good wholesome love story have not far to look in any modern library.

The invalid in his arm chair, or still more helpless on a bed of pain, can sometimes forget his pain for a time, and travel in imagination with some explorer to the heart of Central Africa, or to China, Japan, to Egypt or Rome, and view their ancient glories. Happy should the author feel who can beguile the weary hours of suffering thus.

Even for the wee mites there are wonderful picture books, and as the mind matures, the beautiful Bible stories, fairy stories, stories of birds, beasts and flowers, and for the older ones again there is no lack of good wholesome and instructive books.

It is marvellous the influence of books on one's character. Who has not felt the uplifting influence of some good biography, felt the need to restrain some unworthy desire, to try to cultivate more fortitude of character, more patience, more self-sacrifice, after reading one of these. When one is tired and despondent, how soothing is the influence of the right sort of book.

How often has a person almost given up in despair, when he has heard or read of someone in a similar position, who has struggled on through adversity and eventually attained his goal; and it has given him renewed courage and stimulated him to fresh achievements and attainments. What an intense power and scope the author has to ex-hale his influence for good or evil: Wherever men go, there can go the children of his brain. He can reach

the people and the hearts of the people that no others can reach and influence them as no others can influence.

If only all authors could comprehend this, as many do, and realise that this marvellous power is not really their own, to be used only for their own selfish ends, but only lent to them by God for the furtherance of His own kingdom, then perhaps we would not come across so much trashy and immoral literature.

We pick up books to-day by the score that can do no good to anyone, but can and do work untold harm to some. Some will argue that in this advanced age we must take a wider outlook on life. That is quite so, and if there is a good moral in a book, even although it be rather plainly spoken, I have no doubt it attains its end.

A few years ago there was a great controversy about a book of Hall Caine, called "The Woman Thou Gavest Me." I heard many people say it should never have been written, and that it was most immoral. Certainly it was not a book that should be read by those who had not reached years of discretion, but I am convinced that it was a book written with a great purpose, and that purpose was to show the folly and sin of forced and loveless marriages.

Some time ago I read another book, written I am sorry to say, by a New Zealand woman. It was cleverly written, the language was good, and the story would have been beautiful if it had not been spoiled, for every self-respecting man and woman, by its utter immorality, and I think it would take a supernaturally clever person to find any purpose in that book, except to pander to the taste of a class that is no acquisition to the world at large.

It is the children and the youth of the nations that are going to be sullied by these sort of books. When the mind is fully developed it can as a general rule withstand these influences, but to the undeveloped mind and character an immoral book emanates just the same influence as an immoral companion. When you realise that that influence does not remain with one person, but is passed on and on by him, until it goes down the countless ages it is appalling.

The only thing we can do is to encourage the young people to read books of a high moral tone, advise them to choose authors we know are sound, and never let them read books we know

nothing about until we have scanned them. When their tastes are cultivated for good literature they are safe, but let them get a taste for sensational trash, and they will vote good pure books "tame."

I could go on and on, but there is a refrain ringing in my brain "Boil down," and after all, what can I do but appeal to some influential persons to set revolving the wheels within wheels that will stop the import and sale of immoral books.

A. CULLEN.

News of the Unions.

PLEASE NOTE!

1. Every Union should report.
2. Reports must be short.
3. Must be in by 8th of month.
4. Don't report what you are going to do.
5. Don't send newspaper reports of your meetings.

OXFORD.

Dec. 12. Annual meeting. Fair attendance. Expressions of sympathy with Mrs G. Rossiter. A short service of thanksgiving for Spiritual Healing Mission, and for help received by one member. "No More War" resolution endorsed. Balance-sheet read and adopted. Reports from various departments showed fifty financial members, the increase largely due to Miss Earnshaw; one honorary member. Sixty-three names on Cradle Roll, and fifty-eight "White Ribbon" subscribers. Votes of thanks passed to Auditor (Mr L. Watson), outgoing officers, and the newspapers. Mrs Ryde occupied the chair during election of officers, which resulted as follows:—Pres., Mrs G. Ryde, Cooper's Creek; Sec., Mrs C. W. Tritt, Oxford; Treas., Miss Caverhill; Vice-Pres., Mrs D. Hawke; Evangelistic Committee, Mesdames Robertson and Morris and Miss Gainsford; "White Ribbon" Supt., Mrs D. Hawke; Cradle Roll, Mesdames Roi and Comyns; Notable Days, Mrs Cooper; Flower Mission, Mrs Jamieson; Home Meetings, Mrs T. Gainsford.

WAIPUKURAU.

Nov. 12. Special prayer meeting. Numbers were small, but all were greatly blessed. Unanimously decided Peace Day to be on day nearest Armistice Day.

Dec. 4. Annual meeting. Good attendance. Various accounts were passed for payment. Election of officers: Pres., Mrs Gore; Sec., Mrs Reid;

Treas., Mrs Robinson; "W.R." Agent, Mrs Smales; Band of Hope Supt., Mrs Duckworth; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Harding and Major. Secretary gave interesting report of year's work. Afternoon tea.

NAME NOT GIVEN.

Eight meetings have been held, with an average small attendance; they have been enjoyable. The first work undertaken and accomplished has been the founding of a local branch of Plunket Nurses' Society in our township. It has an Executive of its own, but four out of its eight members are W.C.T.U. workers, and its President and Secretary are Vice-President and Secretary of the W.C.T.U. The Society is very popular, and the nurse has quite a lot to do on her weekly visit. Our Cradle Roll Supt. has had a lot of illness, but we have 32 members on the roll, and hope for better results next year. We offered prizes to the four upper standards in our local school for essays on "Effects of Alcohol." Eight prizes were given, and eight promised for next year.

CHRISTCHURCH.

Dec. 12. Mrs Taylor presided over a good attendance. The annual report was read by the Secretary. It showed a year of steady work. The number of members on the roll is 193, the rate of increase being reduced owing to the formation of five suburban Unions. The work of the year comprised prizes offered to school children for essays on "The Effects of Alcohol on the Human Mind and Body," literature sent to back-blocks every month, effort to promote the principle of peace and arbitration, work among the young people, visits and annual tea to inmates of Jubilee Home. Good Citizenship and the several notable days were observed, and the Union held stalls at several street corners, and collected £92 on Poppy Day for the Soldiers' Unemployment Fund. Two new members were received. Decided to go into recess until the last Wednesday in January, 1924, when the annual meeting will be held.

ONEHUNGA.

Dec. 13. A very successful Cradle Roll picnic was held in Jellicoe Park. A large attendance of little ones and their mothers. Cradle Roll Supt. reported 104 now on the roll. There were races and prizes for the children; a gift of a pretty handkerchief to each child, and swinging balls for the babies. The eldest boy and girl on the roll each received a good book. Children not at the picnic to have their gift sent to them by the Superintendent. Members of the Union provided the refreshments, and, with the visitors, helped in the games, watched over the slides and swings, so helping to make it a happy time for all. The mothers were especially welcomed. Mrs Neal (Dominion C.R. Supt.) and Mrs Lee-Cowie (District Supt.) gave short talks.

WARKWORTH.

Dec. 6. The annual meeting. The attendance was fair. After the ordinary business was finished, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—Pres., Mrs Curran; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Thornley and Phillips; Treas., Mrs McKinney; Sec., Mrs Hamilton; Supt L.T.L., Miss McGregor.

OTAUTAU.

Dec. 7. Annual meeting. Past office-bearers were re-elected. Mrs Brown (President) encouraged members to continue in the good work, and wished all the season's greetings. Band of Hope (45 members) had a very successful session, and the wind-up concert was a great success. Our Union had a visit from Mrs Paisley, Invercargill, and from Mrs Walker, the latter taking away with her parcels for the Jumble Stall of the Y branch of South Invercargill.

NAPIER.

Dec. 5. Annual meeting. President in chair. Small attendance. Election of officers left over until the New Year. Members to work up good representative meeting for February, to discuss ways and means to dispose of Willard Hall and obtain a more central and suitable building for W.C.T.U. requirements. Mrs Hull appointed delegate to Convention. Regret at losing Mrs Hay from our Branch: transfer given to Cambridge Branch. Afternoon tea provided by members.

OAMARU.

Dec. 10. Annual social. Solos were rendered by the Misses K. Allen, Common, Marshall, and Mrs Steenson, and met with hearty applause. Officers elected: Pres., Mrs J. J. Clarke; Sec., Mrs C. Blair; Treas., Miss R. Day; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Steenson and Hutchison, Misses Wilson and Stephenson, M. Milligan; Band of Hope Supt., Miss Smyth; "White Ribbon" Agent, Mrs Corlett; Organists, Mrs Stenhouse and Miss Ironside; Press Reporter, Mrs Scott. The reports of the different departments were read and adopted. The Treasurer's report showed a credit balance. The "White Ribbon" circulation had been maintained, and purity works had been efficiently done. The Press Reporter's work was much appreciated. Vote of thanks to the Press for their kindness and courtesy. Vote of thanks to Mr Clarke, Auditor. Secretary's report read and adopted. Refreshments served.

WAIMATE.

Dec. The inspiration of numbers was very evident at our annual meeting, when there was an unusually large and representative gathering of women. The Secretary's report showed marked progress, and the work was being carried on with enthusiasm. The Treasurer reported a good credit balance. The Canterbury Convention had been held in Waimate in September, with most inspiring effect on the work of the

Union. Mrs Kippenberger was unanimously re-elected President, Mrs Hurst Rec. Sec., Mrs Harold Hayman Cor. Sec., and Mrs Roy Treas. Mrs Hitchcups, who had been acting-Secretary for a year, and Treasurer for 13 years, declined nomination. Decided to place on record appreciation of her very efficient services. It was decided to form a Cradle Roll. Mrs Hurst reported that the Rest Room had been established. Reference was made to the great spiritual uplift resulting from the Healing Mission. The Temperance Doxology brought to its close a meeting that, both in point of numbers and enthusiasm, augurs well for the work of the Union during the year.

INVERCARGILL SOUTH.

Dec. 4. Annual meeting. Attendance fair. Mrs Pasley (President) in the chair. Annual report read and adopted. Final arrangements made for the tea and rest tents on Show days. Donated £1 to be spent on fruit for patients in hospital. £1 10s passed for Temperance essay prizes. The following officers were elected:—Pres., Mrs McGregor; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Pasley, Smart, Fairbairn, Garret, Aiken; Cor. Sec., Mrs Crozier; Rec. Sec., Mrs Parkin; Treas., Nurse Griffiths; Evangelistic Supt., Mrs Pasley; Cradle Roll Supt., Mrs Wilson; Notable Days Supt., Mrs Garret; Purity Supt., Mrs Graham; "White Ribbon" Supt., Mrs Pasley; Press Reporter, Mrs Piper.

TINWALD.

Dec. 12. Annual meeting, combined with Cradle Roll social. Mrs R. J. Liddell presided. Excellent attendance. Report showed good progress, increased membership, sound financial position, growing interest. After two years' splendid service, our President (Mrs Liddell) was compelled to decline nomination, owing to leaving the district. Mrs Lill appointed President. Vice-Pres., Mesdames J. Thompson, Jennings, Stevenson; Sec., Mrs Hopwood; Treas., Miss Turner; Cradle Roll, Mrs Gill; "White Ribbon," Mrs Smith. Six prizes donated by Union to Tinwald school children for Temperance essay, presented by President at "break-up" of school. Thus opportunity given to advocate our principles. Mothers and children entertained at afternoon tea. Items by Misses E. Liddell, Petrie, and Staff-Captain Carrol.

KAIAPOI.

Dec. 12. Annual meeting. Mrs Merrin presided over a good attendance. Mrs Barnard read a paper on "Woman's Work and Influence." The following officers were elected for 1924:—Pres., Mrs S. Jackson; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Merrin, Scott, and Barnard; "White Ribbon" Agents, Mesdames Stanton and Keitley; Pianist, Mrs Chapman. Mrs Merrin, our retiring President, was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for her work during the year. One new member was initiated.

NELSON.

Dec. 11. Annual meeting. Business session. Decided to send a parcel of gifts to the Special Home for Girls at Richmond. The usual donation was allotted to the Union funds, and £10 to the Building Fund. Election of officers: Pres., Miss Atkinson; Sec., Mrs Brown; Treas., Miss Cooke. Social Session. Rev. J. McNiel (Presbyterian) gave a most earnest and helpful address, which was listened to with great interest, the keynote being one of warning to be watchful. The Secretary, Mrs Brown, read her report, showing the good work of the Union. Mrs Noel Watson sang a solo. Afternoon tea was served. The President extended the season's greetings to all, thus closing another year of work for God, Home, and Humanity.

PAPANUI.

Dec. 20. Ministers, representing three church. Mrs W. R. Smith presided, and heartily welcomed the visitors. Rev. W. H. Orbell gave a most interesting and instructive address. Rev. D. D. Rodgers and Mrs Rodgers spoke. All were accorded a hearty vote of thanks. The Waimariri, Papanui, and Harewood School Committees wrote accepting an offer of prizes. The Social Committee dispensed afternoon tea.

WELLINGTON CENTRAL.

Dec. 19. Mrs Harry in the chair. Reports were given by Committees. Decided to donate a guinea to the Christmas tea for the sailors. Miss Helyer read a report of the address delivered at the Columbia Convention by Mrs Mary Harris Armor. Letters of sympathy to be sent to our Dominion Vice-President, Mrs Taylor, on account of the death of her daughter, also to Mrs Glasson on account of the death of her husband, Rev. J. Reed Glasson.

TEMUKA.

Dec. 14. Annual meeting. Good attendance. Nurse Cameron in chair. Annual reports were read. Treasurer reported a balance of £6 5s 7½d; the Rest Room Superintendent reported a balance of £12 13s 11d. Reports and balance-sheets were adopted. All officers were re-elected. President, Nurse Cameron; Sec., Mrs E. Blackmore; Treas., Miss E. Greaves; "White Ribbon" Agent, Mrs Wilson; Vice-Pres., Mrs Tilbrook, Mrs W. Brown, Mrs Edwards, with the addition of Mrs Fell, Mrs Abbey, Mrs Hervey. Decided to try and form a Y Branch, also an L.T.L., next year. Mrs Abbey contributed a solo. Mrs Cooper dispensed delicious afternoon tea.

RICCARTON.

Nov. 15. Annual meeting. Fair attendance. Treasurer's report was highly satisfactory; balance in hand, £15. The Secretary's report gave some idea of the work accomplished by

this young Union. Following ladies were elected:—Pres., Mrs G. W. Barrel; Sec., Mrs Newth; Assistant Sec., Mrs White; Treas., Mrs Swanston; "White Ribbon" Agent and Reporter, Mrs Virtue. Two new members were received. Miss Henderson was the speaker for the afternoon.

Dec. Meeting poorly attended. Vote of sympathy was passed to Mrs T. E. Taylor in the sad loss of her daughter. Decided to make our March meeting a special one, when all members were asked to bring a friend. The President and Secretary reported visiting the Templeton Branch, whose meeting was held at the residence of Mrs F. Musgrove. Miss Earnshaw gave an interesting account of her work as Dominion Organiser. Five new members were added to their membership list. A visit was also paid to the Upper Riccarton Branch in November, when Mrs T. E. Taylor spoke on the work of the W.C.T.U.

EPSOM.

Dec. 5. Second meeting. President in the chair. Two new members were initiated, bringing our total up to 16 members. Mrs Tucker was appointed Evangelistic Superintendent.

BRIGHTON.

Dec. 11. Annual meeting. Good attendance. Deputation appointed to visit Anglican Mothers' Union, Presbyterian Ladies' Association, and Methodist Ladies' Guild, to enlist their co-operation for more united action and increased membership. Four prizes awarded for Temperance essay, 83 competitors from Standards V. and VI. Decided to take up department of Scientific Temperance Instruction for next year. Election of officers: Pres., Mrs Hall; Sec., Mrs Moses; Treas., Mrs Campbell; Cradle Roll Supt., Mrs Good; "White Ribbon" Agent, Mrs Whitely; Notable Days, Mrs Bellamy; Scientific Temperance Instruction, Peace and Arbitration, and Good Citizenship, Miss B. M. Harband.

SAWYER'S BAY.

Nov. 27. Mrs Cleghorn in the chair. Fair attendance. Election of officers: Pres., Mrs Hudson; Vice-Pres., Mrs Fratley; Rec. Sec., Mrs Wallis; Cor. Sec., Mrs Gaspar; Treas., Mrs Aburn; Cradle Roll, Mrs Downes and Miss Andrews; "White Ribbon" Agent, Mrs Perry; L.T.L. and Band of Mercy, Mrs Hudson and Miss Glanville. Decided to meet on February 27th. Donated £3 to Organising Fund.

GREYMOUTH.

Nov. 27. Annual meeting. Mrs James presiding. Officers elected: Pres., Mrs B. James; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Gaskin, Carr, and Cuttle; Sec., Mrs Mason; Treas., Mrs Wilson; Evangelistic Supt., Sister Rose Batchelor; Backblocks Supt., Mrs Parkinson; "White Ribbon" Agent, Mrs Reynolds; Sick Visiting Committee, Mesdames

Orange and Dixon; Social Committee, Mesdames Stewart and Roberts; Press Reporter, Mrs Dixon. Annual reports were received from Secretary, Treasurer and Sailors' Rest Committee. Retiring President, Mrs Gaskin, congratulated upon her many years of faithful service.

OPOTIKI.

Dec. 13. Mrs Thompson presiding. The Secretary gave the annual report. The Treasurer read a very satisfactory report showing a good balance in hand. Cradle Roll and "White Ribbon" reports were also submitted. Mrs Hamby rendered a solo. All the officers were re-elected amidst applause. Mrs Thompson returned thanks and spoke of the hearty co-operation she had received, and assured them she would do her best as she had done in the past and urged all present to work with greater zeal to win the day for Christ and humanity. The President was appointed delegate for the Conference. Afternoon tea was dispensed by Miss Vastone and Mrs Hamby.

TAURANGA.

Dec. Held our annual meeting, with President in chair. Officers all re-elected. Decided that we get some more badges. Afternoon tea was dispensed and the meeting closed with the Benediction.

MOSGUEL.

Nov. 20. The President occupied the chair. Letter and telegram were read from Hon. Downie Stewart and Sir Francis Bell re drink in the King Country and increase in totalisator permits both promising careful consideration. The delegates gave their report on District Convention. An intercessory meeting was held to offer up prayer for the peace of the nations.

Y's Column.

INVERCARGILL.

Dec. 3. Invercargill Y's annual meeting. Reports showed an increase of membership and financial position was good. The members who had visited Bible Classes during the year had brought the Temperance question before each member, and made them realise its importance. Donations to the Maori Fund, Bluff Sailors' Rest, Organising Fund, N.Z. Fund and Missionary Fund were passed for payment. Following officers for 1924 were elected: Pres., Miss R. Finlayson; Vice-Pres., Misses Lopdell, Blaikie and Pearce; Rec. Sec., Miss Seed; Cor. Sec., Miss R. Smale; Treas., Miss W. Cunningham; Asst. Treas., Miss Sheriffs; Press Reporters, Misses Ker and

**DASH, LTD., Waimate,
DAY AND NIGHT GARAGE.
Supplies and Repairs. Tourists welcomed**

Pasley; White Ribbon Agent, Miss R. Finlayson.

On Dec. 18 over 20 Y's motored to Lorne Farm and after joining in games, etc., with the boys, gave them a sumptuous supper of cakes. After telling them what our Y's stood for, some of the older boys signed our pledge, and we hope to keep in touch with them. A Christmas cake was also given to them, but was left to be cut on Christmas Day.

RIVERTON.

Nov. 30. Last meeting for year held, President in the chair. Small account passed for payment and Secretary read annual report. Very satisfactory. The Treasurer's report showed a credit balance of £2 17s. Three members offered to send flowers to the Hospital for December, January and February. Decided to meet next year on last Friday in February.

TIMARU.

Dec. 10. Last meeting for the year. After the business for the night had been put through and the election of officers for the next year, we spent the rest of the evening very enjoyably with games, etc. Owing to the very inclement weather, there was not a very large attendance, 16 being present. Decided to resume on 25th February, 1924.

Ladies visiting Auckland should patronise the
W.C.T.U. HOSTEL,
UPPER QUEEN STREET.
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 Superior accommodation for
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 Moderate tariff.

AUCKLAND, second and fourth Wednesday, 2.30 p.m., W.C.T.U. Headquarters, Wellesley Chambers, Wellesley Street (entrance Lorne Street). Pres., Mrs Cook, 17 Esplanade Road, Mt. Eden; Cor. Sec., Miss N. Dewar, Pompallier Terrace, Ponsonby; Rec. Sec., Mrs J. W. Taylor, Sentinel Road, Ponsonby; Treas. and W.R. Agent, Mrs Dowling, 1 Pompallier Terrace.

AUCKLAND Y'S, 2nd Wednesday each month, 7.30 p.m., Headquarters, Wellesley Chambers. Pres., Mr E. Francis Mills, 46 Kensington Avenue, Mt. Eden; Rec. and Cor. Sec., Miss N. Barry, 6 Lawrence Street, Ponsonby; Assist. Sec., Mr H. Bowls; Vice-Pres., Miss Pyle, Mrs Hugh Kasper; Treas., Mrs Rawlinson; Supt., Miss J. Morton, Woodley Avenue, Remuera.

ARAMOHO, 2nd Thursday, 2.30 p.m., Presbyterian Church. Pres., Mrs D. Hallam, 252 Somme Parade; Vice-Pres., Mrs Dudley; Rec. Sec., Mrs Sharpe, Roberts Avenue; Cor. Sec., Mrs A. Gilmour, Paterson Street; Treas., Miss Gilmour, Paterson Street; W.R. Agent, Miss N. Gilmour, Paterson Street.

AVONDALE, 3rd Tuesday, 2 p.m., Brown Street Methodist Church. Pres., Mrs Cook; Rec. Sec., Mrs W. T. Blight; Cor. Sec., Mrs Beach; Treas., Mrs Avery; W.R. Agent, Mrs Avery.

ASHBURTON, 1st Tuesday, 2.30 p.m., in Baring Square Schoolroom. Pres., Mrs G. Miller, Havelock Street W.; Joint Secs., Mrs J. Thompson, Wakanui Road, and Miss Trevurza, 169 Peter Street; Treas., Mrs R. Buxton, Cox Street West; W.R. Agent, Miss Butterick, Wakanui.

BIRKENHEAD, 3rd Thursday, at 2 p.m., in Zion Hill, Methodist Schoolroom. Pres., Mrs Le Roy, Hauraki Rd; Sec., Mrs Todd, Crescent Road; Rec. Sec., Miss R. Hayman, Arawa Street; Treas. and "W.R." Agent, Miss R. Le Roy, Hauraki Road.

BLENHEIM, first Tuesday, 2.30 p.m., in Wesley Hall. Pres., Mrs W. W. Rowntree, York Terrace; Sec., Mrs Smith, Brook Street, Springlands; Treas., Mrs T. Pike; Literature, Mrs Wass; Rest and Refreshment, Mrs A. W. Jackson; W.R. Agent, Mrs W. Pike; Cradle Roll, Mrs A. Mills.

BLUFF, 1st Friday, Willard Hall, 3 p.m. Pres., Mrs Donaldson, Barrow Street; Sec., Miss Mitchell, Ocean Beach; Cor. Sec., Mrs W. H. Johnston, Foyle Street; Treas., Mrs W. Barber, Foyle Street.

CARTERTON, 3rd Wednesday, in Salvation Army Barracks, at 2.30 p.m. Pres., Mrs Every; Cor. Sec., Mrs H. Knutson, Victoria Street; Rec. Sec., Miss Braithwaite, Clifton Avenue; Treas., Mrs August Anderson, High Street; Evangelical Supt., Mrs Tyler; Cradle Roll, Mrs Moore; W.R. Agent, Miss Watterson.

CAMBRIDGE, 2nd Thursday in month, in Methodist Schoolroom, at 2.30 p.m. Pres., Mrs A. W. Martin, Hamilton Road; Sec., Mrs Elsie Beer, Stafford Street; Treas., Mrs E. J. Easter, Princes Street; "W.R." Agent, Mrs C. H. Bycroft; Cradle Roll, Mrs Whitehouse.

CHRISTCHURCH, W.C.T.U. Rooms, 247 Manchester Street, opposite His Majesty's Theatre, 2nd and 4th Wednesday, at 2.30 p.m. Prayer Meeting on the 3rd Wednesday, at 3 p.m. Pres., Mrs T. E. Taylor, Cashmere Hills; Cor. Sec., Mrs Ruth Day, 92 Edward Avenue, St. Albans; Rec. Sec., Miss Bishop, 12 Beale Street; Treas., Miss M. B. Lovell-Smith, Box 114; Assistant-Treas., Miss Gordon, Holly Lea, Manchester Street; W.R. Supt., Mrs Day, 92 Edward Avenue, St. Albans.

DANNVIKKE, 2nd Thursday, Methodist Church, 3 p.m. Pres., Mrs Hutchinson, Edward Street; Vice-Pres., Miss Heaton; Sec., Miss Heaton, Cadogan Road; Treas., Mrs Sharpley, Priacess Street; W.R. Agent, Mrs Wright, 227 High Street.

SOUTH DUNEDIN, meets 2nd Thursday, at 2.30 p.m., in Wesley Schoolroom, Cargill Road. Pres., Miss Powell, Cliffs Road, St. Clair; Sec., Mrs E. L. Johnston, 35 Baker Street, Caversham; Treas., Mrs Williams, 39 Nelson Street, South Dunedin; W.R. Agent, Mrs J. Shacklock, 67 Main South Road, Caversham.

DUNEDIN, 1st Tuesday, 2.45 p.m., Hanover Street Baptist S.S. Pres., Mrs Hiatt, 264 George Street; Cor. Sec., Miss M. S. Powell, 120 Cliffs Road, St. Clair; Rec. Sec., Mrs Alexander, Dundas St.; Treas., Mrs Macartney, 27 Maller St., Mornington; W.R. Agent, Miss Nicol; Maori Work, Mrs Romerill; Evangelistic, Mrs Bennett; Sabbath Observance, Mrs Driver; Juvenile Work, Mrs Gain; Work Among Seamen, Miss Nicol; Cradle Roll, Mrs Marcella; Home Meetings and Press, Mrs Hutton.

DEVONPORT, 2nd Thursday, Congregational Church, 2.30 p.m. Pres., Mrs Burnett, Jubilee Avenue; Vice-Pres., Mrs Elliott and Mrs Armitage; Sec., Mrs Trevurza, Cra-croft Street; Treas., Mrs Hay, Tainui Road; W.R. Supt., Mrs Johnson, Albert Road; Supt. Cradle Roll, Mrs Sheppard.

EKETAHUNA, meets 3rd Thursday, in Methodist Sunday Schoolroom, at 2.30 p.m. Pres., Mrs Green; Vice-Pres., Mrs Hansen and Mrs Edmonds; Treas. and Act.-Sec., Mrs Norman; W.R. Agent, Mrs Baillie.

EDENDALE (Southland), 1st Thursday, at 2.30 p.m., in Presbyterian Church. Pres., Mrs G. Bridgman, Methodist Manse; Sec., Miss H. Hall; Treas., Miss Cranstoun; W.R. Agent, Mrs Horace Niven.

EDEN, 3rd Wednesday, 2.30 p.m. Methodist Schoolroom, Dominion Road. Pres., Miss Wilson, Wilford Road, Mt. Eden, Cor. Sec., Mrs Scanlan, 2 Mars Avenue, Edendale N.; Rec. Sec., Mrs Auld, 14 Tenterden Avenue, Mt. Eden; Treas., Mrs Cartwright, Huia Villa, Dominion Road; W.R. Agent, Mrs Hudson, Richmond Road, Mt. Eden.

FIELDING, 1st Thursday, 2.30 p.m., St. Paul's Hall. Pres., Mrs Pack, Sandilands Street; Sec., Miss Watt, P.O. Box 11; Treas., Mrs McIntyre, Ranfurly Road; W.R. Agent, Mrs Campbell, West Street; Cradle Roll, Mrs Mai; Evangelical Supt., Mrs Tremain.

GORE, 4th Tuesday, 3 p.m., Methodist Church. Pres., Mrs E. C. Smith; Sec., Mrs T. Dunlop; Treas., Mrs McAskil; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Rhodes and Stewart; Cradle Roll, Mrs McAskil; W.R. Agent, Mrs T. Stevenson.

GREYMOUTH, Business only last Tuesday. Prayer Meeting, second Tuesday in Sailors' Rest Hall. Pres., —; Vice; Pres., Mesdames Gaskin and Parkinson; Sec., Mrs Mason, Cobden; Treas., Mrs Wilson, Cowper Street; W.R. Agent Mrs Reynolds, Karora.

GREYTOWN, last Tuesday, 2.30 p.m., Presbyterian Sunday School. Pres., Mrs Morrison; Vice-Pres., Mrs R. Anker; Sec., Miss Oates, Wood Street; Treas., Mrs A. Haigh; W.R. Agent, Miss Oates.

GISBORNE, last Tuesday, 2.45 p.m., Presbyterian Schoolroom. Pres., Mrs Gale, Ormond Road; Sec., Mrs F. J. Wilkes, 466 Gladstone Road; Treas., Mrs Reynolds, 188 Gladstone Road.

HAWERA, last Thursday, at 2.30 p.m., in the Methodist Bible Class Room. Pres., Mrs Tait; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Hill and Bone; Sec., Mrs Boucher, Manawapou Rd; Treas., Mrs Burge, 18 Buriang St.; W.R. Agent, Mrs Hill.

HAMILTON EAST, 3rd Tuesday, 2.30 p.m., in Methodist Hall. Pres., Mrs E. Watkins, 131 Grey Street; Sec., Mrs Mears; Treas., Mrs G. Jack, McFarlane Street; Cradle Roll, Mrs R. Mears, 176 Grey Street; W.R. Agent, Mrs Dey, Albert Street.

HASTINGS, 4th Thursday, Methodist Hall, 2.30 p.m. Pres., Mrs Harper, Duchess Crescent; Vice-Pres., Mesdames F. W. C. Paul, and Hughes; Sec., Mrs Wilson, P.O. Box 273; Treas., Mrs Pullar, 715 Heretaunga Street; W.R. Agent, Mrs Paul, P.O. Box 276.

HENDERSON, 3rd Wednesday, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches alternately, 2.30 p.m. Pres., Mrs Platt, North Road; Vice-Pres., Mrs Wright and Miss Duncan; Treas., Mrs Williams; Rec. Sec., Mrs McKay, Great North Road; Cor. Sec., Mrs W. Williams; W.R. Agent, Miss K. Duncan; Cradle Roll Supt., Mrs Fenney, Waahi Hamlet.

HAMILTON, first Thursday, Wesley Class Rooms, 2.30 p.m. Pres., Mrs J. M. Jones, 52 Te Aroha Street; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Paul, Mathew, and Gilmour; Treas., Mrs E. J. Davey, London Street; Sec., Mrs Stephenson Craig, Peachgrove Road; W.R. Agent, Mrs Boneham.

INGLEWOOD, meets last Wednesday, in Methodist Sunday Schoolroom, at 2.15 p.m. Pres., Mrs J. B. Simpson, P.O., Plakau; Sec., Miss Johnston, Kingsdowne; Treas., Mrs J. Burgess, P.O., Te Tawa.

INVERCARGILL Y's meet 1st Monday, in Y.M.C.A. Rooms, at 7.30 p.m. Pres., Miss E. A. Lopdell, 53 East Road; Rec. Sec., Miss D. Blackmore, 140 Crinan Street; Cor. Sec., Miss W. Cunningham, Nith Street; Treas., Miss A. K. Blakie, 171 Crinan Street; W.R. Agent, Miss Rita Finlayson.

INVERCARGILL CENTRAL, 1st Tuesday, 3 p.m. in Y.M.C.A. Rooms. Pres., Mrs F. Lillierap, 57 Earn St; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Baird, Carlisle, and Mackenzie; Sec., Mrs B. Walker, 232 Conon Street; Treas. and "W.R." Agent, Mrs Matheson.

INVERCARGILL SOUTH, meets every 2nd Tuesday, in St. Peter's Methodist Schoolroom, Elles Road, Enwood, at 2.45 p.m. Pres., Mrs McGregor; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Pasley, Smart, Fairbairn, Garrett, and Aitken; Rec. Sec., Mrs Parkin; Cor. Sec., Mrs Crozier, 44 Pomona Road; Treas., Nurse Griffiths; W.R. Agent, Mrs Pasley.

INVERCARGILL NORTH. Pres., Mrs Hopkirk; Sec., Miss Dewar, 10 Newcastle Street; Treas., Miss Hardie; "W.R." Agent, Mrs Kent.

KAIAPOI, W.C.T.U. Assembly Rooms. Union meets last Wednesday in month, 2.30 p.m. Pres., Mrs S. Jackson, Fuller Street; Sec., Mrs Stewart, Raven Street; Treas., Mrs T. G. Blackwell; W.R. Supt., Mrs Stanton, North Road.

LOWER HUTT, 4th Wednesday Church of Christ, Queen Street, at 2.45 p.m. Pres., Mrs Ballantyne, Belmont Road; Sec., Mrs R. Aldersley, Brunswick Street; Treas., Mrs Baigent, King's Road; Cradle Roll, Mrs Heyes, Brunswick Street; W.R. Agent, Mrs Mussen, Pretoria Street.

MANAIA, 2nd Tuesday, Methodist Church. Pres., Mrs J. J. Patterson; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Gilbert and Smith; Sec., Mrs C. Hansen; Treas., Miss D. Patterson; Cradle Roll, Mrs Sandford, Manaia Road.

MASTERTON, 1st Thursday, Knox Hall, 3 p.m. Pres., Mrs J. C. Cocker, Albert Street; Sec., Miss Wingate, Casel Street; Treas., Mrs R. Jamieson, Lincoln Road; W.R. Agent (vacant).

MORRINSVILLE, meets 2nd Tuesday, in Methodist Vestry. Pres., Mrs Richards, The Manse, Allen St.; Sec., Mrs Cooper, Allen Street; Treas., Mrs Willis, Allen Street; "W.R." Agent, Mrs Johnstone, Hamilton Road.

MOSGIEL, third Tuesday in month, at 2.30 p.m. Pres., Mrs E. Bedford, East Taieri; Treas., Mrs S. Johnstone, King Street; Sec., Mrs M. H. Wilson, corner of Inglis Street; W.R. Agent, Mrs A. Morton, Forth Street.

MOTUEKA, last Wednesday in month, 3 p.m., Methodist Church. Pres., Mrs Richards, The Manse, Elwaka; Vice-Pres., Captain Hammond, Greenwood Street; Rec. Sec., Miss Glover, King Edward Street; Cor. Sec., Miss Bradshaw, c/o Hau Post Office; Treas., Mrs Quayle, Atkins Street; "W.R." Supt., Mrs Hulbert, Poole Street.

NGARUAWAHIA, 1st Tuesday, 2.30 p.m., Presbyterian Church. Pres., Mrs A. Walkinson; Sec., Mrs J. S. Colhoun; Treas., Mrs C. Rogers; Supt. W.R., Miss E. Walkinson.

NAPIER, first Wednesday, in Willard Hall, 3 p.m. Pres., Mrs G. W. Venables, Ashburton Rd; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Dodds, Leask, and McAlister; Rec. Sec., Mrs Field, Hastings Street Extension; Cor. Sec., Mrs Hull, Chaucer Road; Treas., Mrs Greenaway, 46 Macdonald Street; Evangelistic, Mrs Lods; Cradle Roll, Mrs Walker; W.R. Agent, Mrs Mens.

NELSON District, 2nd Tuesday, Methodist School Hall, 3 p.m. Pres., Miss Atkinson, Brougham Street; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Knapp, Watson, Field, and Hunter; Rec. Sec., Mrs Brown, Weka Street; Treas., Miss Cooke, Examiner Street; W.R. Agent, Mrs C. Wilkinson, Grove Street; L.T.L., Mrs Moyes, Grove Street.

NORMANBY, 2nd Wednesday, 2 p.m., Social Hall. Pres., Mrs Scott, Normanby, Rural Delivery; Vice-Pres., Mrs Bevan and Mrs Clement; Sec., Miss Anthony, Normanby; Treas., Mrs Linn, Normanby; Cradle Roll, Mrs Clement; W.R., Mrs Gane.

NEW BRIGHTON, 3rd Thursday, in Methodist Schoolroom. Pres., Mrs Hale, Walnut Street, Bexley; Sec., Mrs Moses, Lonsdale Street; Treas., Mrs Gibson, Union Street; Evangelistic Supt., Mrs Read, Parsonage; W.R. Agent, Mrs Whitley, Waverley Street, N.B.; Notable Days, Mrs Langley; Cradle Roll, Mrs Good.

NORTH-EAST VALLEY, 4th Thursday, 2.45 p.m., Young Men's Institute. Pres., Mrs Peart, 4 Pine Hill Terrace; Sec., Miss M. Begg, 45 Selwyn Road; Treas., Mrs Sanders, 43 Frame Street; W.R. Supt., Miss M. Prattley, 131 Main Road.

NEW PLYMOUTH last Wednesday, 2.30 p.m., Whitely Hall. Pres., Mrs Griffin, Gilbert Street; Cor. Sec., Mrs G. Scott, Mt. Edgecumbe Road; Rec. Sec., Mrs Chapman, 496 Devon Street; Treas., and "W.R." Agent, Miss Taunt, Carrington Road.

ORMONVILLE, 2nd Thursday, at 2.30 p.m. in the Anglican Schoolroom. Pres., Miss Alice Webb; Vice-Pres., Mrs Small; Sec., Mrs Wilson; Treas., Miss Thomason; W.R. Agent, Mrs Packer.

OPOTIKI, 2nd Friday, St. John's Hall, 3 p.m. Pres., Mrs Jas. Thompson; Sec., Mrs J. Gordon; Treas., Mrs M. Downey; W.R. Agent, Mrs Hambly; Cradle Roll Supt., Miss Chambers.

OTAHUHU, meets 1st Thursday, at 2.30 p.m., in Methodist Schoolroom. Pres., Mrs Currie, Avenue Road; Sec., Mrs W. Taylor, Station Road; Treas., Mrs R. Muir, Niger Street; W.R. Agent, Mrs West, Pannure Road.

OTAUTAU, meets 2nd Thursday, in Methodist Church, at 3.30. Pres., Mrs J. N. Brown; Sec., Miss Donnan; Treas., Mrs Fisher; W.R. Supt., Mrs E. Harrington.

OXFORD, first Wednesday, 2.30 p.m., Coronation Hall. Pres., Mrs G. Ryde, Main Street; Sec., Mrs C. W. Tritt; Treas., Miss Caverhill; W.R. Agent, Mrs D. Hawke; Cradle Roll, Mrs Roi; Evan, Miss N. Gainsford; Flower Mission, Mrs Jamieson; Home Meetings, Mrs T. Gainsford; Notable Days, Mrs Cooper.

OAMARU, 2nd Monday, at Church of Christ Schoolroom, 2.30 p.m. Pres., Mrs J. J. Clarke, Tamer Street; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Steenson and Hutchinson, Misses Milligan, Wilson, and Stephenson; Sec., Mrs M. E. Blair, Wansbeck Street; Treas., Miss Day, Tees Street; W.R. Agent, Mrs Corlett, Eden Street.

IAHIATUA, First Thursday in month, Methodist Church, 2.45 p.m. Pres., Mrs J. D. Wilson (Mayoress); Treas., Mrs O. Johnson, Victoria Road; W.R. Agent, Mrs Rennie, Riccarton Road; Sec., Miss M. Edmea, D.H. School.

PALMERSTON NORTH, 1st and 3rd Friday, St. Andrew's Schoolroom, 3 p.m. Pres., Cor. Sec., Mrs Collins, Amesbury Street; Rec. Sec., Mrs Hodder, Allan Street; Treas., Miss Hodder, Allan Street; W.R. Supt., Mrs Burrell, 28 Bourke Street.

PETONE, 1st Tuesday Church of Christ, Sydney Street, 2 p.m. Pres., Mrs Jones; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Rowse, Collins, McEwan, Corner, and Murgatroyd; Sec., Miss M. Avison, 69 Fitzherbert Street; Treas., Mrs Donoghue, 41 Vivian Street, Wellington; W.R. Agent, Mrs Bradbury, 18 Te Puni Street.

PICTON, second Tuesday, 2.30 p.m., Church of England, Presbyterian, and Methodist Schoolrooms, alternately. Pres., Mrs Brewer, Auckland Street; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Jardine and Jackson; Cor. Sec., Mrs Tobell, Devon Street; Rec. Sec., Mrs Millen, High Street; Treas., Mrs Clemens, Scotland Street; Cradle Roll, Mrs Wilkes; W.R. Agent, Mrs E. Wells, Milton Terrace.

PLEASANT POINT meets 1st Wednesday, at 3 p.m., Presbyterian Schoolroom. Pres., Miss Bishop, Box 18; Sec., Mrs J. T. Gunn, Bridge Road; Treas., Miss C. G. Munro; W.R. Agents, Miss Seaton, Totara Valley, and Miss Amy Neilson, Pleasant Point.

RAKAIA, meets on the 2nd Thursday, in St. Andrew's Schoolroom. Pres., Mrs Boag; Treas., Mrs Judkins; Sec., Mrs Field.

RICHMOND (Nelson), 3rd Tuesday, 3 p.m., Baptist Church. Pres., Miss Tarrant; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Cropp, Pittall, and Oliver Sutton; Sec., Mrs Crabtree, Gladstone Road; Treas., Mrs L. Sutton; W.R. Agent, Miss Dyson, "Althorpe."

STRATFORD, 4th Friday, 3 p.m., Methodist Vestry. Pres., Mrs J. McAllister, Vice-Pres., Mesdames Lilley and Phillips; Sec., Mrs Abraham; Treas., Miss Lilley, Juliet Street; Cradle Roll, Mrs Ellis; W.R. Agent, Mrs D. Clarke, Orlando Street.

SAWYER'S BAY, 4th Tuesday, in Methodist Church. Pres., Mrs L. Cleghorn; Rec. Sec., Mrs Wallis; Cor. Sec., Mrs Hudson; Treas., Mrs Findlay; W.R. Agent, Mrs J. Perry; Supts. Cradle Roll, Mrs Cook and Miss Andrews.

SYDENHAM, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, in Elgin Street Schoolroom. Pres., Mrs Sirett; Sec., Mrs Cartwright Smith, 125 Colombo Street; Treas., Mrs Gillard; W.R. Agent, Mrs Teague.

TAURANGA, meets every 3rd Friday, in Methodist Hall, at 2.45 p.m. Pres., Mrs Carlton Smith, "The Knoll," 11th Avenue; Rec. Sec., Mrs York, 1st Avenue; Cor. Sec., Mrs Castles, 3rd Avenue; Treas., Mrs Teasey, Edgecumbe Road; W.R. Agent, Mrs W. Foxcroft, Cameron Road.

TAKAPUNA, 1st Thursday, 2.30 p.m., Takapuna Methodist and Milford Baptist, alternately. Pres., Mrs Penning, East Coast Road; Vice-Pres., Mrs Laidlaw, Milford; Sec., Miss Rushbrook, Kitchener Road; Treas., Miss Mills; Cradle Roll, Mrs Winstone; W.R. Agent, Mrs Morgan.

TE KUITI, meets 2nd Tuesday in month, at 2.30 p.m., in Presbyterian Vestry. Pres., Mrs Edgar, Waitete Road; Sec., Mrs G. Elliott; Treas., Mrs J. Nicholls, Matai Road; W.R. Agent, Mrs Hill.

TEMUKA, meets 1st Friday, 3 p.m. Pres. Nurse Cameron, c/o Mrs Sims, Allhutt Street; Sec., Mrs E. Blackmore, St. Leonards; Treas., Miss E. Greaves, King Street; Rest Room Supt., Miss G. Hancock, King Street; W.R. Agent, Mrs Wilson, c/o Bramwell Booth Boys' Home.

TIMARU, last Thursday, 2.30 p.m., Sailors' Rest. Pres., Mrs Norrie; Sec., Mrs M. Minife, 12 Roslyn Terrace; Treas., Miss Pearson, Turnbull Street; Cradle Roll, Mrs King, Bank Street; W.R. Agent, Mrs Cave, Raymond Street.

WAIMATE, 2nd Wednesday, in Knox Church Hall, at 3 o'clock. Pres., Mrs Kippenberger, Studholme; Rec. Sec., Mrs Hurst, Naylor Street, Waimate; Cor. Sec., Mrs Harold Hayman, Willowbridge; Treas., Mrs Roy, Waituna; W.R. Agent, Mrs G. H. Graham, Rhodes Street.

WAITARA, Knox Church, 3rd Friday, at 2.30 p.m. Pres., Mrs Avery; Sec., Mrs Jensen, Brown Street; Treas., Mrs Hughson, Cracroft Street; W.R. Agent, Mrs Hingley, Domett Street.

WAIKAWA, 4th Wednesday, 2.30 p.m., Methodist Church. Pres., Mrs Hugh McLean, Waverley Street; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Neal, Robertson, and Bott; Sec., Mrs James Bibby, Rose Street; Treas., Miss Johnson, Rose Street; W.R. Supt., Miss Bibby.

WANGANUI CENTRAL, 1st Thursday, 2.30 p.m., Trinity Church Parlour. Pres., Mrs Goodey, 26 College Street; Cor. Sec., Mrs Upton, 165 Avenue; Rec. Sec., Mrs Reed, Nelson Street; Treas., Mrs Warwick, St. John's Hill; W.R. Supt., Mrs H. Smith.

WANGANUI EAST, meets 2nd Thursday, at 2.30 p.m., in Methodist Chapel. Pres., Mrs Duxfield, "Okoiia," Wanganui E.; Vice-Pres., Mrs J. McLeod; Cor. Sec. and Treas., Sec., Mrs E. Frethey, Nile Street; W.R. Agent, Mrs Melvin, Young Street; Cradle Roll, Mrs Ellis, Helmore Street.

WHANGAREI, 1st Tuesday, 2.30 p.m., in Baptist Church. Pres., Mrs Galpin; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Lovatt, Lochore, Goodall, and Curtis; Sec., Miss Rowsell; Asst. Sec., Miss Hilford; Treas., Mrs R. Gibson; W.R. Supt., Mrs J. McKinnon; Cradle Roll Supt., Mrs C. R. Lovatt; Maori Work Supt., Miss Frendon; Press Reporter, Mrs Lovatt; L.T.L., Mrs W. Goodall.

WINCHMORE, 2nd Wednesday, alternately at Greenstreet and Winchmore. Pres., Mrs Robinson; Sec., Mrs W. Bennett, "Daylesford," Winchmore; Treas. and W.R. Agent, Mrs W. Bennett, Winchmore.

WELLINGTON SOUTH, 1st Thursday, 2.45 p.m., Rooms, Constable Street. Pres., Mrs Wright, 127 Constable Street; Sec., Mrs Webb, 37 Hall Street; Treas., Miss Boxall, 40 Pirie Street; W.R. Agent, Mrs Moller, 6 Burwah Street. Y Branch Rooms, alternate Thursdays, at 8 p.m.

WELLINGTON CENTRAL, 3rd Wednesday, 3 p.m., Y.M.C.A. Rooms, Willis Street. Pres., Miss Kirk, Pirie Street; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Hughes, Caughley, McDonald, Harry, Dawson and Holland; Cor. Sec., Mrs T. C. Webb, Talavera Terrace; Rec. Sec., Miss Thompson; Treas., Mrs Helyer, 148 Oriental Bay; W.R. Supt., Mrs Caughley.

WAIKURAU, 2nd Friday, Methodist Church Hall, 3 p.m. Pres., Mrs Gore; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Harding and Major; Sec., Mrs Reid; Treas., Mrs Robinson; W.R. Agent, Mrs Smales.

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